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The six hundred and twenty-second meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, London, on 19th January, 1965

Chairman: Major-General C. B. Wainwright

Members present 14; Guests 4.

Mr. T. W. Gladwin spoke on migratory weight changes in wablers. A summary will be published in the *Bulletin*.

**The Pygmy Honey-guide, *Indicator pumilio*
Chapin in East Africa**

by JOHN G. WILLIAMS AND HERBERT FRIEDMANN

Received 26th October, 1964

The geographic range of the Pygmy Honey-guide, *Indicator pumilio*, was stated as recently as 1962, by Chapin (*Ibis*, vol. 104, p. 43) to be the highlands west of Lake Edward and Lake Kivu, at levels between 6,000 and 7,800 feet, from near Mt. Tschabirimu and the North Talya River, close to the equator, south as far as the highlands north-west of Lake Tanganyika, the southermost records being from the Itombwe highland, at almost 4° S., from Nikenge, Luiko and Kakanga. The object of the present note is to report an eastern extension of this distribution to the Impenetrable forest, s.w. Kigezi, 8,000 feet, Uganda, where a female was collected by J. G. Williams on 27th April 1964, and even to the Kakamega forest, 5,500 feet, western Kenya, where A. Forbes-Watson obtained another female on 20th March 1963.

These two specimens were compared by H. Friedmann with two examples of *pumilio* collected by J. P. Chapin west of Lake Kivu, and were found to be definitely of the same species. The Kigezi bird is practically identical with those from Tshibati, Kivu district, but the one from Kakamega is sufficiently different to raise the question as to whether or not it may represent an as yet undescribed race. It is a trifle larger, with a wing length of 70 mm., as compared with 64 mm. in the Tshibati and Kigezi birds (Chapin did, however, give 69 mm. as a maximum for female *pumilio* from the eastern Congo). It also has the under parts more uniformly greyish, without the streaks present in the Congo and western Uganda birds, and has the entire top and sides of the head more greyish.

less greenish, less streaked than in the more western examples. There is a noticeable contrast in the general tone of the top of the head and of the back in the Kakamega bird which is not present in the others. Additional material from Kakamega will be required to permit any decision as to the possible distinctness of the population there.

When Chapin discovered *I. pumilio* and described it in 1958, it came as a surprise that there was a small, long overlooked species sympatric with *I. exilis*. When he later (*Ibis*, 1962, pp. 40-44) elucidated the status of still another small, superficially similar honey-guide, *I. willcocksii*, even more extensively sympatric with *I. exilis*, it became apparent that our knowledge required much re-evaluating. To find now that *pumilio* has a discontinuous distribution east as far as the Kakamega forest of western Kenya serves to accentuate still more the realization that there are still discoveries to be made in areas assumed to be well known.

A presumed trigen duck involving Mallard, Pintail and Gadwall

by JAMES M. HARRISON and JEFFERY G. HARRISON

Received 12th October, 1964

INTRODUCTION

On 28th December, 1963, a remarkable hybrid duck was shot at Dersingham, Norfolk, by Mr. J. Ellis of Worksop. The bird, a drake by plumage, was single and was shot at dawn as it was flying out to sea.

Mr. Ellis made a most astute guess at its identity, namely that it was a trigen involving Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* Linnaeus, Pintail *A. acuta acuta* Linnaeus and Gadwall *A. strepera* Linnaeus. He had the bird mounted and later very kindly loaned it to us for study and we are able to support his identification.

To the best of our knowledge this is the first example of a presumed trigen duck occurring in the wild, while, of course, it is known that Mallard X Pintail hybrids are fertile and that all three species are found nesting in Norfolk.

The term trigen was introduced by the late J. L. Bonhote (1905) when a nomenclature was being sought to express individuals of multiple genetic constitutions, and at the suggestion of Professor Skeat a simple interspecific cross was termed a digen, and where more than two species were involved the individual was designated as a trigen, tetragen, pentagen and so on, according to the number of species concerned.

Before describing the present specimen it would be well to quote from Bonhote's paper (*loc. cit.*) as to the different varieties which hybridisation can produce. Such individuals can bear (1) resemblances to one or other of the parent species or (2) they may produce variations resembling species other than those involved in the parentage, or (3) individuals resembling no known species, or again (4) white coloration. A frequent variation can be recognised as being more or less intermediate in character between the parent species. Broadly speaking the interpretation of a simple interspecific hybrid presents little difficulty, but as the genetic constitution becomes more complex, the resulting morphology concomitantly becomes more obscure.